

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED POSS DUPE

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43 40

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OC-06 CCO-00 SIG-04 ABF-01 /021 W

----- 041086

R 110805Z AUG 74

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1133

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

UNCLAS BAGHDAD 0485

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFIN, ACOM, IZ

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR SUPPLEMENTARY FUNDS FOR COMMUNICATIONS

REF: BAGHDAD A-34, JUNE 15, 1974.

1. USINT URGENTLY REQUESTS THAT ITS BUDGET ALLOTMENT FOR FY 75 BE INCREASED BY 10,000 DOLLARS IN OBJECT CLASS 2339, TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATIONS, TO COVER TELEX INSTALLATION, LEASE, DEPOSIT AND OPERATING COSTS. BREAKDOWN OF TELEX COSTS AS FOLLOWS: REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT 4080 DOLLARS; YEAR LEASE 1632 DOLLARS; INSTALLATION COST 136 DOLLARS; TOTAL 5858 DOLLARS. REMAINDER OF AMOUNT TO COVER COST TO TELEX MESSAGES IN FY 75 BASED ON RATE OF 3.4 DOLLARS PER MINUTE CHARGE. EMBASSY BEIRUT WOULD CONTINUE TO SERVE AS LINK TO DEPARTMENT AND TELEX COULD NORMALLY BE USED ONLY TO BEIRUT.

2. JUSTIFICATION: AS DEPARTMENT AWARE USINT'S GREATEST OPERATING HANDICAP IS SLOW AND UNRELIABLE COMMUNICATIONS. TELEPHONE SERVICE OUTSIDE OF IRAQ IS SO UNRELIABLE AS TO BE VIRTUALLY NON-EXISTENT. THUS FOR URGENT MESSAGES WE MUST REPLY ON PTT, WHICH TAKES MINIMUM OF 24 HOURS TO BEIRUT AND SOMETIMES AS MUCH AS 60 HOURS. FURTHERMORE, IT IS COSTLY AND NOT RELIABLE. (OUR COMMERCIAL TELEGRAPHIC COSTS IN FY 74 ARE ROUGHLY ESTIMATED AT 9000 DOLLARS - PTT BILLS NOT YET RECEIVED FROM BEIRUT). WE EXPECT THAT FIGURE TO BE SUBSTANTIALLY HIGHER IN FY 75 DUE TO INCREASED WORKLOAD.

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3. TELEX INSTALLATION TAKES ON EVEN GREATER

IMPORTANCE IN VIEW OF RECENT AUTHORIZATION FOR COMMERCIAL
OFFICER POSITION, SINCE HEAVY UTILIZATION BY COMMERICAL OFFICER
ENVISIONED. TELEX WILL EFFECT MAJOR ENHANCEMENT OF COMMUNI-
CATIONS CAPABILITY AT USINT AND EARLIEST POSSIBLE PROCUREMENT
WAS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED BY FS INSPECTORS IN AUGUST 1974. LOWRIE

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